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I am writing to provide comments to the FCC on the E-Rate NPRM, proceeding 13-184, E-Rate funding is important to MN Ind District 879, Delano because it helps our students and teachers connect online with other teachers and students and to access online resources necessary for becoming informed and well educated citizens. Unfortunately, E-Rate funding has not kept pace with the bandwidth needs of MN Ind. District 879. Delano. I urge you to increase E-Rate funding to at least \$5 billion per year which is near the demand level for each of the past two years.

As a School Media specialist in MN, I know that infusing digital learning in the curriculum is essential for preparing our students to be 21st Century career and college ready, This effort will prepare today's student with the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in a global economy. Access to high speed internet is essential to allow innovative and globally connected teaching and learning to occur in all schools in the United States.

In my district, we use mobile, digital devices to personalize learning, create, collaborate, and communicate with other learners in various parts of the world, provide online classes, administer assessments and advance STEM education. An example of digital learning in my school is the design, development and testing of basic robots in our Principals of Engineering course. However, our network is failing to keep up with the demand of our student body and teaching corps and the need for reliable high-speed networks is only going to increase in the near future.

The E-Rate program has done a commendable job in bringing internet access to almost every classroom in the US. However, requests for funding from schools and libraries has consistently exceeded the total amount available. I respectfully urge the FCC to increase funding for the E-Rate program to at least \$5 billion to meet the needs of schools, the students served by our nations libraries and schools. The future of our nation depends on the success of our children.